

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) In—a A surface light source device having a light-emitting unit comprising

a point light source and a light guide,

a reflecting surface being provided on the reverse side of the light guide and also having a prism pattern, wherein the prism pattern has a directionality, which is liable to cause radial patterns of unevenness in the brightness of a surface light source,

~~a surface~~ the surface light source characterized ~~characterised~~ in that a directional light-diffusing film which diffuses and allows light to pass, comprising

two phases with differing refractive indices, and which in addition to the phase with the greater refractive index including a plurality of regions with a columnar structure extending in the direction of the thickness of the film, has said columnar structure inclined at an angle of more than 5° and less than 60° to the normal direction of the film, is provided beside the light-outputting surface of the light guide in such a way that the direction of diffusion of the directional light-diffusing film is in the same direction as the direction of the unevenness in brightness.

2. (Original) The surface light source device claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said directional light-diffusing film is bonded to said light guide or prism sheet with prism pattern using a light-diffusing adhesion agent containing microparticles with a diameter of 0.1 to 50 μm.

3. (Currently amended) The surface light source device claimed in claim 1, characterized ~~Claim (2), characterised~~ in that said light-diffusing adhesion agent contains minute particles with diameters in the range of 1-100 nm whose refractive index is 1.8 or greater.
4. (Original) The surface light source device claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the refractive index of said light-diffusing adhesion agent is 1.55 or greater.
5. (Previously presented) The surface optical source device claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said columnar structure has a structure such that the refractive index varies gradually along the axis line of said columnar structure.
6. (Currently amended) The surface light source device claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said light-emitting unit is positioned facing the center ~~centre~~ of the end surface of the light guide, the direction of diffusion of said directional light-diffusing film being parallel to the other end.
7. (Currently amended) The surface light source device claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said light-emitting unit is positioned facing an ~~the~~ angled end surface of the light guide, the direction of diffusion of said directional light-diffusing film being directed towards the angle facing the light-emitting unit.
8. (New) The surface optical source device claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said columnar structure has a structure such that the refractive index varies gradually along the axis line of said columnar structure.
9. (New) The surface light source device claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said light-emitting unit is positioned facing the centre of the end surface of the light guide, the direction of diffusion of said directional light-diffusing film being parallel to the other end.
10. (New) The surface light source device claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said light-emitting unit is positioned facing the angled end surface of the light guide, the direction of

diffusion of said directional light-diffusing film being directed towards the angle facing the light-emitting unit.

11. (New) The surface light source device claimed in claim 1, wherein the device produces little unevenness in brightness when viewed from an oblique direction.

12. (New) The surface light source device claimed in claim 9, wherein the device produces little unevenness in brightness when viewed from an oblique direction.

13. (New) The surface light source device claimed in claim 10, wherein the device produces little unevenness in brightness when viewed from an oblique direction.

14. (New) The surface light source device claimed in claim 1, wherein said directional light-diffusing film is bonded to said light guide or prism sheet with prism pattern using a light-diffusing adhesion agent containing microparticles with a diameter of 0.1 - 50 μm whose refractive index is 1.55 or greater.